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Continuation of 3. NOTE:

Claim 15 as amended would require a step of applying a liquid treatment (A) to the attachment surface of the fibrous substrate and a step of applying a liquid treatment (B) to the attachment surface of the elastomeric film layer. Claim 16 as amended to depend from claim 15 would require an additional step of applying a liquid treatment (C) to the attachment surface of the elastomeric film layer. This limitation was not previously considered. Additionally, claim 18 as a result of the amendment to claim 15 would require the step of applying a liquid treatment (B) in addition to the step of nipping the resultant set. This limitation was also not previously considered, and because these limitations were not previously considered the amendment is not entered as doing so would require further consideration and/or search.

Continuation of 11. does NOT place the application in condition for allowance because:

Applicants argue, “However, this machine translation is apparently a mistranslation. Kikuchi discloses that a polymeric elastomer (2) water dispersion is coated either on the surface layer (corresponds to the film layer) or a fiber composite sheet (corresponds to the fibrous substrate). That is, a polymeric elastomer (2) water dispersion is coated on the fibrous substrate or on the film layer.”

Applicants arguments regarding paragraph 0028 have been considered. Applicants translation of Kikuchi does describe applying the treatment liquid to the attachment surface of the fibrous substrate or the attachment surface of the elastomeric film layer it being noted it is not clear that the translation is other than a machine translation as the translation is not certified or otherwise described.

In any event, as noted in the Final Rejection Kikuchi meets the limitations of claims 14 and 15 in that in a first step a treatment liquid is applied to the attachment surface of the fibrous substrate which is considered "the treatment liquid (A) is applied to the attachment surface of said fibrous substrate" of claim 15, in a second step the treatment liquid coated attachment surface of the fibrous substrate is applied to the attachment surface of the elastomeric substrate which is considered "a treatment liquid (B) is applied to the attachment surface of the elastomeric film layer" of claim 15, and in third and fourth steps of nipping and heating the substrates considered the attaching and drying steps of claim 14.

The above description of Kikuchi meets the limitations of claims 14 and 15 as none of the claims define the treatment liquid steps in such a way as to preclude that taught by Kikuchi such as by requiring the treatment liquid (A) contact the treatment liquid (B) in the attaching step of claim 14.

It is further noted for clarity that as currently claimed there is no requirement that treatment liquid (A) is somehow different from treatment liquid (B). The claims only require two steps of applying treatment liquid wherein the first step is considered applying treatment liquid (A) and the second step is considered applying treatment liquid (B). The following is additionally noted in the event it may be argued that the treatment liquid (A) is different from treatment liquid (B) either as currently claimed or in a future amendment Kikuchi would meet this additional limitation in that paragraph 0028 referred to by applicants describes optionally preliminarily drying the treatment liquid applied to the attachment surface of the fibrous substrate prior to application of the treatment liquid to the elastomeric film surface such that the treatment liquid (A) applied to the attachment surface of the fibrous substrate and the treatment

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liquid (B) applied to the attachment surface of the elastomeric film surface may be considered different in that each contains different contents, i.e. amounts of water and polymer.

/John L. Goff/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 1746